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LETTER DATED 1 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Please find herewith (see annex) an article by Agence France Presse dated 29 November 1998 quoting Senator Arlen Specter (R-Penn.), who stated to Fox News that he does not believe that the evidence linking Al-Shifa factory to chemical weapons production is overwhelming. He also said that "we ought to be finding the facts", and called upon the Congress to investigate the missile attack on Al-Shifa factory in Khartoum.

I would appreciate if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih ERWA
Permanent Representative

Annex

Specter wants probe into U.S. missile attack on Sudan

[Latest News From Sudan At Sudan.Net]

News Article by AFP on November 29, 1998 at 18:48:08:

Specter wants probe into U.S. missile attack on Sudan

WASHINGTON (November 29, 1998 - Congress should look into whether a U.S. missile strike on a pharmaceuticals plant in Sudan in August was justified, a leading senator said Sunday.

Speaking on the Fox News talk show Sunday, Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Penn., said evidence linking the plant to chemical weapons production had not been "overwhelming."

"I do not believe that the evidence is overwhelming," said Specter. "We ought to be finding the facts."

The Aug. 20 strike ordered by President Clinton came two weeks after U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were blown up in terrorist attacks.

U.S. officials maintain that the plant was engaged in chemicals weapons production and was linked to the chief suspect in the embassy bombings, terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden.

Specter said Congress should hold closed-door hearings to probe the missile attack on the Al Shifa plant in Khartoum, which Sudan says produced only medicine.

"We ought to be having closed door hearings to find out exactly what went on," Specter said.

Former president Jimmy Carter has also called for an investigation into the attack on the factory, suggesting that a technical team inspect the remains of the plant and take samples of soil and building materials.

U.S. officials say soil samples taken near the factory prove the plant was engaged in production of an agent used in deadly nerve gas.

The attack was launched three days after Clinton acknowledged in a nationally-televised address that he had an "inappropriate" relationship with former intern Lewinsky

On the day of the strike, Specter, a member of the Senate defense appropriations subcommittee, said that the timing raised
"certain concerns."

Many Clinton critics have charged that the president ordered the attack to divert attention away from the White House
sex-and-perjury probe.

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